

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCA-01 SCS-03 CPR-02 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7217

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1497

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN

SUBJECT: CONSULAR CONVENTION NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 213757 (B) SOFIA 1453 (C) SOFIA 1311
AND SOFIA 1309

1. CHIEF MFA CONSULAR SECTION AND CHIEF BULGARIAN NEGOTIATOR (KARASLAVOV) SUGGESTS TALKS BEGIN IN SOFIA ON DECEMBER 10. HIS PERSONAL SCHEDULE WOULD TOLERATE DATE FIVE DAYS EARLIER OR LATER BUT HE MUCH PREFERS DECEMBER 10. EMBASSY BELIEVES WE SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ADHERE TO THIS SCHEDULE AND REQUESTS DEPARTMENT LEGAL EXPERT ARRIVE NO LATER THAN EARLY DECEMBER 9 FOR PRIOR CONSULATATION WITH EMBASSY. PLEASE ADVISE.

2. IN NOVEMBER 1 MEETING WITH KARASLAVOV, CONSUL EMPHASIZED USG HOPE DECEMBER TALKS WOULD BE FINAL NEGOTIATIONS. IN MEETINGS INFORMAL ATMOSPHERE, CONSUL SUGGESTED THAT, IF POSSIBLE AND ADVISABLE, KARASLAVOV ARRANGE TO HAVE HIGHER AUTHORITY "ON CALL" FOR DECISIONS ON DUAL NATIONALS AND ANY OTHER DIFFICULT ISSUES THAT MAY ARISE. KARASLAVOV EXPRESSED HIS HOPE FOR FULL AGREEMENT ON ALL ISSUES IN DECEMBER AND REGRETTED HE COULD NOT YET OFFER GUARANTEE OF FAVORABLE RESOLUTION ON DUAL NATIONAL QUESTION.

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3. RE PARA 3 REF. TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, "ENJOY-

MENT" BY BULGARIAN NATIONALS (IN BULGARIA) OF ESTATES LOCATED ABROAD IS AFFECTED BASICALLY ONLY BY NORMAL CONTROLS ON CURRENCY EXCHANGE BUT ALLOWS FOR SPECIAL DOLLAR ACCOUNTS FOR PURCHASING FROM STATE-CONTROLLED STORES. BELIEVE FOREIGN INVESTMENT OF INHERITED FUNDS PROHIBITED BUT WE ARE SEEKING STATUTORY REFERENCES. PRIOR TO MID 1960 EXORBITANT TAXES AND UNFAVORABLE RATES OF EXCHANGE, WERE APPLIED TO INHERITANCE FROM ABROAD. HOWEVER, THESE REGULATIONS WERE REPEALED ABOUT 1964 AND REGULATIONS DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE THE INFLUX OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE HAVE BEEN ADOPTED AND NOW THERE ARE NO FISCAL AND/OR PSYCHOLOGICAL BARRIERS, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE.

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE FEEL GUARANTEES FOR US HEIRS OF BULGARIAN ESTATES SHOULD BE SECURED FROM GOB IN CONNECTION WITH CONSULAR CONVENTION NEGOTIATIONS. WE REQUEST DEPARTMENT TRANSLATE ESSENCE SOFIA 1311 INTO DRAFT LANGUAGE DESIGNED FOR AGREEMENT OR EXCHANGE OF NOTES SO WE CAN SUBMIT TO GOB WELL BEFORE ARRIVAL OF US NEGOTIATOR.

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